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TOR:071719Z OCT 74

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3154
BT

UNCLAS MOSCOW 15097

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TGEN TBIO UR

SUBJ: S&T AGREEMENT: MICROBIOLOGY AREA: SEMINAR ON
IMMOBOLIZED ENZYMES

1. PROFESSOR BEREZIN OF MOSCOW UNIVERSITY HAS REQUESTED
PROMPT REPLY TO FOLLOWING LETTER CONCERNING US-USSR
SEMINAR ON OMMOBOLIZED ENZYMES. EARLY AGREEMENT ON
DATE AND STRUCTURING OF SEMINAR ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE
AMPLE TIME TO ORGANIZE SEMINAR AND TO OBTAIN NECESSARY
CLEARANCES FROM MINISTRY OF HIGHER AND SPECIALIZED
EDUCATION TO CONVEENE THIS CONFERENCE AT MOSCOW
UNIVERSITY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

DEAR DR. LEISE,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER DATED 19/8/74. I AM
VERY SORRY TO ADMIT THAT A KIND OF SEVERE MISUNDERSTAND-
ING CONCERNING THE US-USSR SEMINAR ON IMMOBOLIZED
ENZYMES HAS DEVELOPED. I ENTIRELY AGREE WITH YOU
THAT SUCH A SEMINAR SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF
THE ACTIVITY OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP AND IT IS PRO-
BABLY PARTIALLY MY FAULT THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL STEPS
WHICH PROF. BEREZIN HAD TAKEN LED ASTRAY.

AT THE SAME TIME I STILL THINK THAT IT WOULD BE A
GREAT PITY IF THIS FIRST STEP IN OUR JOINT EFFORTS WILL
TURN OUT AS A KIND OF FALSE START. THAT'S WHY I PRO-
POST TO CONSIDER WITH YOU THE POSSIBILITIES OF
ORGANIZATION OF THIS SEMINAR ALONG THOSE LINES WHICH
YOU HAVE STRESSED IN YOUR LETTER.

1. THE SEMINAR COULD BE POSTPONED SAY FOR ONE MONTH OR
MORE.

2. AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS OF THIS SEMINAR WILL BE CHOSEN
BY YOU WITH CONSIDERATION OF OUR PROPOSALS. I THINK
THAT 15 PARTICIPANTS FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE AND ABOUT
25-30 PARTICIPANTS FROM THE SOVIET SIDE WILL BE
SATISFACTORY FOR THE SIMINAR.

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1. LFS msc
2. AB

Microbiology

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3. I THINK IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IN PARTICIPATION OF THIS SEMINAR ALSO THE MEMBERS OF ENZYME ENGINEERING PROJECT GROUP (DRS. LEISE, HUMPHREY ET. AL.) AND HOLD THE MEETING OF THIS GROUP IN MOSCOW AFTER THE SEMINAR.

4. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IF AN OFFICIAL MEETING OF THE GROUP IV PROJECT PERSONNEL IS HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SEMINAR, THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THIS GROUP MEMBERS WILL COME FROM THE U.S. (SENDING SIDE). FURTHER IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT NSF SUPPORTED RESEARCHERS HAVE TRAVEL MONEY IN THEIR GRANTS TO COVER THEIR EXPENSES TO AND FROM MOSCOW FOR SUCH MEETINGS. FINALLY, IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE INDUSTRIAL PEOPLE CAN HAVE THEIR EXPENSES COVERED BY THEIR COMPANIES.

AS PROF. BEREZIN INFORMED ME HE HAS MET PROF. HUMPHREY IN TOKYO AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS SEPTEMBER AND THEY HAVE DISCUSSED IN SOME DETAIL A POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF COMING EVENTS. I HOPE THAT THE ABOVE SAID IN THIS LETTER WOULD BE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES AND I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT REPLY ON THIS MATTER.

SINCERELY,

YE. SHENDERREY. END TEXT. STOESSEL

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Dr. Joshua M. Leise

September 25, 1974

Approved For Release 2001/08/27 : [REDACTED] 00798A000400100006-7
Chairman of the American Part

of the Joint Working Group
for Scientific-Technical STATINTL
Cooperation in the Area of
obtaining Substances by Micro-
biological Means. Senior Staff
Associate Deputy Assistant
Director for Research National
Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550.

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Dear Dr. Leise,

Copy to Dr. A. Humphrey

Thank you for your letter dated 19.8.74. I am very sorry to admit that a kind of severe misunderstanding concerning the US-USSR Seminar on Immobilized enzymes has developed. I entirely agree with you that such a Seminar should be considered as part of the activity of the joint working group and it is probably partially my fault that the organizational steps which Prof. Berezin has taken lead astray.

At the same time I still think that it would be a great pity if this first step in our joint efforts will turn out as a kind of falsstart. That's why I propose to consider it with you the possibilities of organization of this Seminar along those lines which you have stressed in your letter.

1. The Seminar could be postponed say for one month or more.
2. American participants of this Seminar will be chosen by you with consideration of our proposals. I think that 15 participants from the American side and about 25-30 participants from the Soviet side will be satisfactory for the Seminar.

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Microbiology

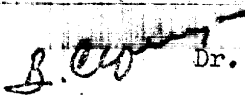
3. I think it will be possible to include in participation of this Seminar also the members of Enzyme Engineering Project group (Dr-s Leise, Humphrey at all) and hold the meeting of this group in Moscow after the Seminar.
4. It is my understanding that if an official meeting of the Group IV Project personnel is held in conjunction with the Seminar, the financial support for this group members will come from the U.S. (sending side). Further it is my understanding that NSF supported researches have travel money in their grants to cover their expenses to and from Moscow for such meetings. Finally, it is my understanding that the industrial people can have their expences covered by their companies.

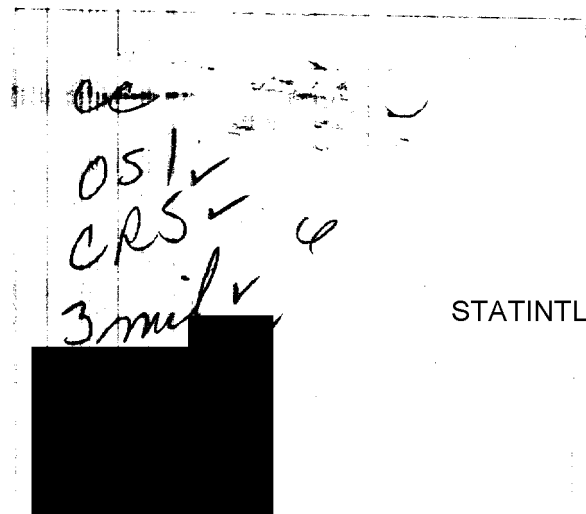
As Prof. Berezin informed me he has met Prof. Humphrey in Tokio at the beginning of this September and they have discussed in some details a possible development of coming events. I hope that the above said in this letter would be to a certain extent satisfactory to both sides and I would very much appreciate your prompt reply on this matter.

Chairman of the Soviet part
of the US-USSR Joint Working Group
on Cooperation in Science and Technology in the Field of Production
of Substances by Microbiological
Means,

Sincerely Ye. Shenderey.

Dr. Shenderey dictated this letter by phone from Sochi
(Black Sea Coast).

 Dr. V. Seregin.



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20 September 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: OSI Assessment of Progress in the S&T Bilateral Agreement Project on Production of Substances by Microbiological Means

Microbiological

1. The October 1973 assessment on cooperation in this subject area remains valid. As stated on our 18 July 1974 comment on the Project Review, dated 27 June 1974, there seems little doubt that the US side of the Joint Working Group has gained an awareness of Soviet capabilities in the scientific areas of concern to this exchange. There is general agreement that the apparent Soviet primary motivation for the exchange is to develop industrial microbiological technology in support of agriculture.

2. It still is not clear what, if any, benefits the US can derive from this exchange, especially since there is no indication US scientists will visit actual Soviet microbiological production facilities. Such visits are important if US scientists are to assess Soviet capability to technically implement microbiological processes on an industrial scale and to gain access to Soviet information and technology which may have potential for adoption in the US.

3. Recently, we identified four Soviet industrial plants designed for the full scale production of single cell protein (SCP) from hydrocarbons. These plants, in various stages of completion, are located in the vicinity of major petroleum refineries. Unfortunately, with the exception of the facility near Gor'kiy, the information concerning these plants [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] cannot be downgraded further than S/NFD. There is speculation that the production technology employed in these plants is based on Western technology and possibly that developed by the British Petroleum

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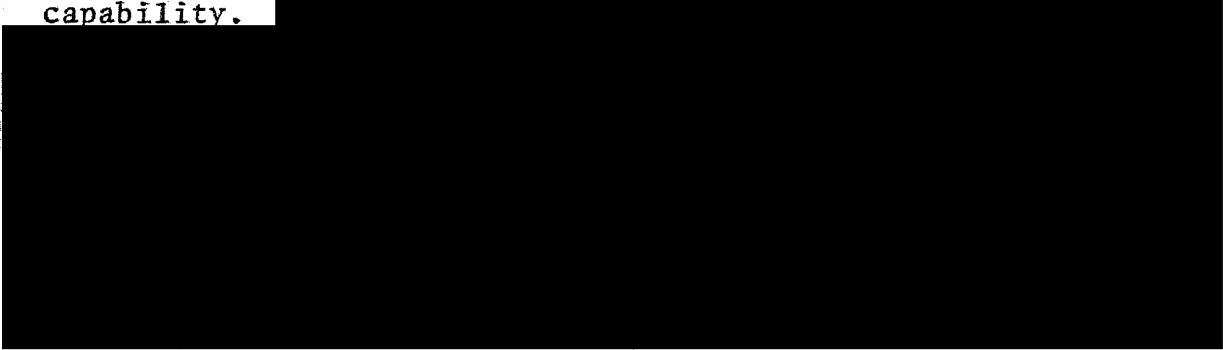
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SUBJECT: OSI Assessment of Progress in the S&T Bilateral
Agreement Project on Production of Substances
by Microbiological Means

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Company. Further information on these plants would be useful
in determining the status of the Soviet SCP production
capability.



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